

# The champagne's on Ice

Belmont winner caps big spring for Eisaman Equine

BY ED DEROSA

**B**OB BAFFERT stopped short of calling Barry Eisaman, V.M.D., a miracle worker, but the Racing Hall of Fame trainer knows the results that can come from sending a horse to Eisaman Equine Services in Williston, Florida.

"Last year, Barry had John Fort's horses; all of Peachtree Stable's horses were broken there," Baffert said. "He had the [eventual 2011 Kentucky] Oaks (G1) winner there for about a month. She was really tough; wanted to run off, was speed crazy; he got her settled. I told John when we got her back from Barry that he should have seen her before."

Plum Pretty's Oaks win was one of three big events for Eisaman Equine this spring. The pinhooking and training outfit started its sales season (it does not sell at the Fasig-Tipton Florida sale of selected two-year-olds in training) by consigning the sale topper at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Co. March sale of selected two-year-olds in training, a Flatter colt bought by Baffert, agent for Kaleem Shah, for \$925,000. Now named Brigand, the Flatter colt out of Silence Please won his career debut on July 3 at Hollywood Park.

Less than three months later, another alumnus of the Eisaman two-year-old program—George and Lori Hall's Ruler On Ice—was being led into the Belmont Stakes (G1) winner's circle after upsetting both Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) winner Animal Kingdom and Preakness Stakes (G1) winner Shackleford to become Eisaman Equine's first classic-winning graduate.

"It's really rewarding profes-



The farm's training track has produced such recent graded stakes winners as Pants On Fire, Aikenite, and Flashpoint

sionally to have something come through our care win at that level," said Barry Eisaman, who operates Eisaman Equine with his wife, Shari. "It was fun. For Shari and I, the horse business is the perfect way to make a living. It's not work for us; it's a way of life."

As with Plum Pretty, the Eisamans tackled some foibles when dealing with Ruler On Ice. Indeed, Eisaman Equine breaks all of the Halls' two-year-olds, and Barry Eisaman said that while the current crop of three-year-olds was on his farm, Ruler On Ice ranked only fourth among the Hall's horses.

"From that particular crop, [trainer] Kelly [Breen] and I favored Sweet Ducky and Pants On Fire," Barry Eisaman said of the two eventual stakes winners. "Ruler On Ice was tough, though. You cannot wear him out. Even though he went into the Belmont as a longshot, his win didn't surprise me because he's tough,

strong-willed, and likes the slop."

## Middle market

Shari Eisaman has taken an active role in her family operation's presence in cyberspace, developing a solid following (11,514 like this) on Facebook, providing timely tweets, and helping to develop and manage a multimedia section of the website.

"I'm so proud of our team of employees; we work so hard with the young ones, and Ruler On Ice was almost impossible to break," Shari Eisaman tweeted shortly after the Roman Ruler gelding won the Belmont. "Thanks to our entire staff for a job well done. As evidenced by Ruler On Ice's behavior while 'New York, New York' was being played and his resistance to enter the winner's circle, he can be very difficult."

The complete list of recent stakes-winning graduates on the Eisaman



Barry and Shari Eisaman were instrumental in preparing this year's Kentucky Oaks and Belmont Stakes winners for the races

Equine website reads like a who's who of who's in training right now. In addition to the aforementioned Grade 1 winners, the Eisamans broke and/or sold graded stakes winners Adios Charlie, Aikenite, Flashpoint, J.J.'s Lucky Train, Rodman, and The Factor and stakes winners Citrus Kid and Twinspired. The farm's top earners are Grade 1 winners and sires Lion Tamer and Red Giant.

"Barry does a great job getting horses ready; he puts a great foundation in them," Baffert said. "When I send horses to his place, I never worry about it. I send them there, and he tells me when to pick them up. That's the way I like it. We leave

each other alone unless there's a problem.

"I deal with some real good guys in Florida, and he's one of them. We have mutual respect for each other. I've known Barry for years and years. He's probably the most knowledgeable veterinarian when it comes to horses, but he's not only a good vet but also a really good trainer."

The Eisamans' operation encompasses 300 acres where they breed to sell, break clients' juveniles, and prepare horses for their consignments at two-year-old sales. The Eisamans acquire many of their sales horses at the Keeneland September yearling sale, and Barry Eisaman has said that a focus on the middle market has helped his family's operation weather the downturn in the Thoroughbred breeding and racing businesses.

"One thing that's helped me and Shari survive is that we never venture out into the types of purchases some others do," Barry Eisaman said. "We never swing for the home run. It's hard to digest a \$200,000 to \$300,000 horse who can't run; it's a tough loss. I'm always more comfortable with the meat-and-potato-type horse. We'll buy at \$50,000, maybe \$80,000 to \$100,000 tops. We provide a service and develop repeat customers and make a living from that." 🐾

Ed DeRosa is Internet news editor of THOROUGHBRED TIMES.

## Eisaman Equine Services Inc. Thoroughbred sales and training

**Proprietors:** Barry and Shari Eisaman  
**Location:** Williston, Florida

**Background:** Barry Eisaman, V.M.D., graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and practiced sports medicine in South Florida before moving to the Ocala area in 1982

**Program:** Breaking and training young horses, two-year-old pinhooking, broodmare band of about 20, rehabilitating horses in training

**Family:** Barry and Shari live on the farm with their daughter, Kristina. Their son, Matt, is a captain in the U.S. Air Force  
**Grade 1-winning graduates:** Friends Lake, Gozzip Girl, Hot Cha Cha, Icon Project, Lion Tamer, Lucifer's Stone, Miss Linda (Arg), Mona de Momma, Numerous Times, Pampered Princess, Plum Pretty, Proud Accolade, Red Giant, Ruler On Ice, Things Change, Traitor

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